



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the week ended October 6 there were in that city 2 deaths from yellow fever.

October 9: The United States sanitary inspector at Habana reports that during the two weeks ended October 14 there were in that city 39 deaths from yellow fever and 4 deaths from smallpox.

He also reports that during the same time there were in the town of Regla 30 deaths from yellow fever.

October 9: The United States consul at Santiago de Cuba reports that during the week ended October 9 there were in that city 8 deaths from yellow fever.

October 11: The United States consul at Sagua la Grande reports that during the week ended October 9 there were in that city 3 deaths from yellow fever and 30 cases and 2 deaths from smallpox.

Sanitary report from Habana.

HABANA, CUBA, *October 9, 1897.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the following report for the week ended Thursday, October 7, in which is embodied the operations of this office and concise statements of sanitary matters, as well as a table of comparative statistics of this city:

Thirteen vessels were inspected and passed to ports in the United States during the week. On one vessel, the steamship *Yucatan*, a case of measles was found; with this exception, no contagious or infectious diseases were found. On Sunday, October 3, the American schooner *Wave*, with cattle from Key West, entered this port and proceeded to a wharf where her cargo was discharged, and as this wharf was on the Habana side of the harbor near "Dead Man's Hole" I ordered her master to proceed to Tortugas for treatment of vessel. I am glad to state that on this occasion the treatment accorded your medical officer was courteous; evidently the measures adopted by the service on her arrival at Key West on her previous trip accomplished much good. Passenger traffic to the United States has fallen off only to be resumed as soon as the close quarantine season is over. The heavy rains have ceased and the temperature is very cool.

There is nothing to add about the sanitary conditions of the city—they never improve. The mortality is heavier this week than ever before. Although I have been able to obtain during the past ten days more reliable statistics, I do not believe that it is possible to secure the exact number of deaths occurring here, but I believe that I now secure over 90 per cent of them. I shall, in the future, consolidate the deaths occurring in Habana and Regla, as the deaths that occur in the latter place are almost exclusively of persons taken from Habana. It is reported that bodies of persons buried at Guanabacoa, a small town 3 miles east of Habana, are being disinterred to make room for new burials and that the stench from bodies not buried a year is unbearable. I should state that it is the custom to remove the remains of persons after they have been buried five years, unless the ground is again paid for; but it seems in this instance that less than one year had intervened.

Yellow fever.—There are about 400 cases of the disease in Habana and Regla, with 36 deaths in both places. With a continuance of the cool weather, coupled with the fact that there is but little new material here

for the fever to feed upon, it is to be expected that the number of cases and deaths will decrease.

The deaths from intestinal diseases have increased rapidly, the result of a contracted food supply, and here it would be well to mention that in the table accompanying this report will be found recorded for the first time deaths from starvation. More than 7 deaths have occurred, but I can not positively say how many more. Certainly many people are starving to death here now. I refer not only to the persons who have been brought into the city from the rural districts, but to people of the poorer class.

Smallpox showed a slight increase this week, although but 1 death has taken place. The disease has occurred among the pacificos, I mean the people brought from the country. There are at least 25 cases in the city. No deaths have occurred from beriberi.

Your attention is respectfully invited to the annual ratio per 1,000.

Very respectfully,

W. F. BRUNNER,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine Hospital Service.

[Inclosures.]

Comparative statistics of the mortality of the city of Habana for the weeks ended September 2, September 9, September 16, September 23, September 30, and October 7, 1897.

Disease.	Week ended—					
	Sept. 2.	Sept. 9.	Sept. 16.	Sept. 23.	Sept. 30.	Oct. 7.
Yellow fever.....	27	15	11	23	18	22
Enteric fever.....	16	17	16	11	8	11
Pernicious fever.....	13	12	11	8	9	18
Paludal fever.....	6	3	7	7	13	15
Dysentery.....	22	34	31	26	29	28
Enteritis.....	36	55	48	50	59	89
Smallpox.....	2	0	0	1	4	1
Glanders.....	2	0	0	0	0	1
Diphtheria.....	0	0	0	0	2	1
Pneumonia.....	4	2	5	4	0	4
Tuberculosis.....	43	41	45	29	34	42
Starvation.....	0	0	0	0	0	7
From all causes.....	302	326	336	330	355	420
Annual ratio per 1,000.....	78.52	84.76	87.74	85.80	92.30	114.20

Mortality of the town of Regla for the week ended October 7, 1897.—Yellow fever, 14; typhoid fever, 1; pernicious fever, 1; paludal fever, 5; dysentery, 10; enteritis, 5; tuberculosis, 9. Deaths from all causes, 64.

(NOTE.—Regla is a small town on opposite side of bay from Habana. There are two large military hospitals there, and American vessels often lie in close proximity to one of them.)

HABANA, CUBA, *October 16, 1897.*

SIR: By permission of Sanitary Inspector D. M. Burgess, who returned to duty October 11, I have the honor to submit the following report for the week ended Thursday, October 14, 1897:

The death rate is assuming alarming proportions in this city, and the deaths from intestinal diseases, due to insufficient food among the poorer classes, amounts to about two-fifths of the total deaths. An inspection of a pest hole, known as Los Fosos, was made by me on Thursday, October 14. This place has been set aside for the country people sent to Habana. Los Fosos consists of a large wooden building about 150 feet in length and 60 feet in width. The building is situated in an inclosure which is used for the storing of carts of the municipality.

There were 500 people found in and around this building, and of that number over 200 were found lying on the floor sick and dying. I saw no child under 10 years of age who could be considered in good health. They were invariably suffering from some form of enteritis or dysentery. The emaciation of their bodies was startling. This place is not a hospital but simply a place of residence for these people, but a conservative estimate of the death rate of these people would be about ten per day. The number is recruited by fresh accessions from the country.

There were over one hundred and fifty children below the age of 10 years, and I did not observe one whose chance for living thirty days, under the existing conditions, was good.

There are two other such places in the city where the same conditions exist. The hospitals, civil, are refusing patients. One of them, well known to me, the Mercedes, capable of holding 200 patients, now has nearly 500 and has refused to admit any new patients until that number can be reduced.

Yellow fever.—There were 17 deaths from this disease in the city. Of that number 12 were among the Spanish soldiers and 5 among civilians.

There were 16 deaths at Regla, making 33 total. Typhoid fever has increased very much during the past few weeks, and during the past week there were 33 deaths from that cause.

There is a term in use here, *caquexia paludica*, which means any resulting conditions from the malarial influence, and there were 39 deaths so registered.

There were 21 deaths from starvation recorded; in reality, twice that number has occurred.

In summing up the conditions here I would say that this city is in a bad sanitary condition, even for Habana; the death rate is enormous, and it can not but increase, and the situation here needs close watching in its every detail.

The launch *Gamma*, used for boarding vessels in the harbor, is disabled. While it is being repaired another has been hired.

Very respectfully,

W. F. BRUNNER,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Comparative statistics of the mortality of the city of Habana for the weeks ended September 9, September 16, September 23, September 30, October 7, and October 14, 1897.

Disease.	Week ended—					
	Sept. 9.	Sept. 16.	Sept. 23.	Sept. 30.	Oct. 7.	Oct. 14.
Yellow fever.....	15	11	23	18	22	17
Enteric fever.....	17	16	11	8	11	33
Pernicious fever.....	12	11	8	9	18	16
Paludal fever.....	3	7	7	13	15	19
Dysentery.....	34	31	26	29	28	31
Enteritis.....	55	48	50	59	89	118
Smallpox.....	0	0	1	4	1	3
Glanders.....	0	0	0	0	1	2
Diphtheria.....	0	0	0	2	1	0
Pneumonia.....	2	5	4	0	4	5
Tuberculosis.....	41	45	29	34	42	44
Starvation.....					*7	21
Deaths from all causes.....	326	336	330	355	420	500
Annual ratio per 1,000.....	84.76	87.74	85.80	92.50	114.20	130.00

*Not reported October 7.

Mortality of the town of Regla for the week ended October 14, 1897.—Yellow fever, 16; typhoid fever, 3; pernicious fever, 2; malarial fever, 15; dysentery, 19; enteritis, 18; tuberculosis, 2; deaths from all causes, 101.

Sanitary report from Santiago.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *October 9, 1897.*

SIR: I have the honor of informing you that there were 48 deaths for the week ended October 9. Of these, 8 were from yellow fever, 2 from tuberculosis, 1 from remittent, and 2 from pernicious fevers, 2 from dysentery, 5 from enteritis, 1 from typhoid fever, the rest from common diseases of noncontagious character.

The decrease of the mortality is owing partly to the absence of troops, of which only a small contingent has been left in the town. Among civilians the general health has greatly improved and the death rate has decreased. Malarial fevers predominate at present. Dysentery has almost disappeared.

Respectfully,

DR. H. S. CAMINERO,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

JAMAICA.

Yellow fever in Jamaica.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, *October 6, 1897.*

* * * After much labor and effort I have at last arrived at a fairly accurate knowledge of the disease. It is not yet concrete, because I have not yet received the report from the military authorities; but I hesitate to delay this report longer. The obtainment of this information has been slow as well as difficult, but I have taken the precaution, in the meantime, to keep the quarantine officials at home advised by means of my sanitary reports and bills of health, on which the facts have been duly noted.

I inclose copies of my notes made on all my bills of health at different dates.

I have now a tabulated statement of the cases and deaths as far as I am informed. The first cases were those of two sailors who landed in the island and were admitted into public hospital in Kingston on the 10th and 13th days of July, respectively, one of them dying on the 18th. No more cases occurred until the 4th day of August, when one Berger, living on the South Camp road, was taken ill, dying on the 9th. On the 11th, one Jonathan Green, living in Barry street, was admitted to the hospital. On the 12th, the owner of the house in which Berger lived was taken ill, subsequently recovering. On the 13th, Berger's nurse was admitted to the public hospital with the disease and recovered. On the 12th, another man, named Shaw, was taken, being admitted to the hospital on the 16th and dying on the 18th. On the 14th of August, Professor Humphries was taken ill in Port Antonio. At the same time the Rev. Mr. Abercrombie and his wife, who had been intimately associated with Professor Humphries and who were then in Kingston, were taken ill. They resided in Musgrave avenue. Mr. Abercrombie died, but his wife recovered. The next cases followed in the course of ten days, being those of Mr. Durie, a young reporter on a newspaper, and of Mr. Byer and Miss Farquharson.